

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

AMERICAN SPORT.

SPORT WITH GUN AND ROD in American Woods and Waters. Edited by ALFRED M. MAYER. (Royal 8vo., pp. 388.) The Century Company.

It is seldom our good fortune to examine a book more beautiful in all its details than the superb illustrated work which the Century Company have consecrated to the exploits of American hunters and fishermen. The volume has grown out of the publication of a number of sporting articles in *The Century* magazine. Professor Mayer, of the Stevens Institute, is himself an enthusiastic and experienced sportsman, and besides bringing together and revising the papers from *The Century* he has enriched the book with a great deal of supplementary matter drawn from a variety of sources. Every chapter seems to be the production of an expert. The co-operation of a number of writers has moreover the advantage that it permits each contributor to treat only that branch of the subject in which he is most keenly interested, and for which he is best equipped with personal reminiscence. There are consequently no merely decorative pages, written to complete the story, but nearly all the papers are distinguished by a fascinating vivacity and zest; and nearly all reach at least a respectable, and several a high, literary standard.

Professor Mayer introduces the subject with an illustrated article on "The Prehistoric Hunter," and the work proper is then grouped in separate departments. Under the general head of Large Game, Charles C. Ward contributes admirable chapters of his experience in Canada and Maine, hunting "The Black Bear," the "Moose," and the "Caribou"; James Gordon writes of "Bear Hunting in the South," and Rowland E. Robinson of "Fox Hunting in New-England"; General Lew Wallace is the author of a very lively description of "A Buffalo Hunt in Northern Mexico"; there is a paper by the Earl of Dunraven on "Moose Hunting in Canada"; "A Musk Ox Hunt" in the Arctic region is from the pen of Lieutenant Schwatka; W. Mackay Laffan tells of "Deer Hunting on the An Saible"; J. Harrison Mills of "Hunting the Mule Deer in Colorado"; John Muir of "The Wild Sheep of the Sierra," and George Bird Grinnell of "The Antelope." The department of Fishing covers a wide range of sport, from the trout to the porpoise, and includes papers by Barnet Phillips, Edward Seymour, Dr. James A. Henshall, Dr. A. G. Wilkinson, Francis Endicott, Charles C. Ward, Thaddeus Norris A. R. Macdonough, John Burroughs and Howard Pyke. A considerable variety of entertainment is also to be found under the head of Feathered Game, to which the contributors are Charles E. Whitehead, Professor Mayer, George B. Grinnell, Charles A. Zimmerman and W. M. Laffan. Miscellaneous papers pertinent of the general subject are added by competent specialists, on various implements of sport—the rod, the reel, the shot-gun, the bow and the blow-gun, as well as a good chapter on taxidermy and one on American sporting dogs; and the editor has had the happy thought of including Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's inimitable narrative of "How I Killed a Bear," and "A Fight with a Trout."

The illustrations include nearly forty full-page pictures, ten of which are proofs on Japan paper, and the cuts interspersed with the text are in bewildering abundance. Many of them have already been admired in the pages of the magazine, but in this volume where they are set off by the heavy and highly calendered plate paper, and by more deliberate and exact presswork than it is possible to spend upon a popular periodical—even upon *The Century*—they acquire a new delicacy and beauty. The exquisite frontispiece, "In the Woods," engraved direct from nature by Mr. Kingsley, and printed on Japan paper, is a triumph of American art which fully introduces the remarkable collection. The publishers seem to have gained great pains about the accuracy of the illustrations, as well as with their purely artistic effectiveness. Many of them were drawn in the field, and in not a few instances the artist is also the engraver. We know of nothing in sporting literature which can compare with them for spirit, truthfulness and beauty; and indeed, so far as the last quality is concerned, there are few books in any department of literature in which the art of illustration on wood has been carried to a higher point than here. James C. Beard, Elbridge Kingsley, Gordon Trumbull, W. M. Cary, Thomas Morris, Mary Hallock Foote, N. W. Swain Gifford, George Inness, Jr., Henry Sandham, F. Hopkinson Smith, Reinhart, Shirlaw, McEntee, W. M. Chase, F. E. Church and Howard Pyle are among the artists who have bent their pencils to the superb result; and the engravers have done ample justice to their designs. How much the book owes to beautiful printing only an expert will understand. The press of Mr. T. L. De Vere is one of the few at which printing is treated, affectionately and sincerely, as a fine art as well as a business.

SEVEN SPANISH CITIES AND THE WAY TO THEM. By EDWARD E. HALE. 12mo. pp. 328. (Roberts Brothers.)

Mr. Hale spent only seven weeks in Spain, but being an experienced traveller, possessing trained eyes and knowing what was best worth seeing in that fascinating country, he was enabled to accomplish as much in seven weeks as a person lacking his equipment would have accomplished in seven months. The book, with the exception of an occasional paragraph, is made up of letters which the author contributed to a Boston newspaper. Prepared for the meridian of that city the letters contain allusions which Bostonians appreciate and doubtless enjoy, but which are lost upon the general reader. It is therefore to be regretted that Mr. Hale did not revise what he had written before presenting it in permanent form. Nevertheless these sketches, to those who are interested in Spain, are well worth the reading.

They abound in vivid pictures of what is most distinctive and suggestive in Spanish life, and these pictures are supplemented by many discriminating and incisive observations on the language, literature, legends, religion, politics and material resources of the land. A thrilling description of a bull fight is conspicuous by its absence. One of the most enterprising chapters is devoted to an account of a ride in a diligence from Granada to Jaen. Such a journey has seldom been described with more animation or happier effect. Mr. Hale has not added a great deal to the general stock of knowledge concerning Spain; but he has produced a thoroughly readable book of travel that cannot fail to accomplish what he had hoped for—it will start some other persons' on a similar expedition.

THE POSITION OF NAGOLD AND OTHER POEMS. By GEORGE L. CATLIN. 12mo. pp. 128. (Stuttgart: Konrad Wittwer.)

This little volume of poems is the nucleus of a more ambitious work which Mr. Catlin proposes to publish some day under the title of "Swabian Sketches." The scenes and legends of the Swabian land have especially touched his fancy and provoked him to verse. Several of these poems inspired by German themes have been published in *THE TRIBUNE*—others have appeared elsewhere. All are more or less animated by a sincere love for nature and by sympathy with what is gentle, generous and heroic in mankind. We notice one omission—the absence of any acknowledgment of indebtedness to the author of "Carcassonne"; the poem is reasonably well paraphrased by Mr. Catlin in his "Grafenberg." The book is tastefully printed, and the German workmen have not failed in the correct presentation of a foreign text.

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